

REMARKS

By this Submission, claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 14 are amended, and claims 10-13 are canceled.

The Office Action objects to claim 12 and 13. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,337,729 to Morii in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,445 to Matsuyama et al., and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0005255 to Niiya et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Morii does not disclose the liquid crystal layer located in a region surrounded by a frame-shaped seal material, the seal material being arranged not to have a liquid crystal injection port and having no trace of having been sealed with a sealant as in amended independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 14. Instead, Applicant specifically disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that the seal material 16 of Morii has no opening for an injection port. As disclosed at col. 6, lines 1-8 of Morii, the liquid crystal is introduced into the panel after the substrates are bonded together. Therefore, the seal material must include remnants of an injection port that was plugged up after the liquid crystal was injected.

None of the applied references disclose the average particle size of the spacers ranging from $0.96d$ to d , as in amended independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 14. Instead, in Niiya, X is an average value of thickness of the spacers such that $d < x \leq 1.1d$.

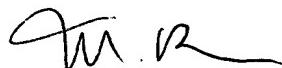
None of the applied references disclose a cell thickness d being within one of the range of 2.83 to 3.26 microns. Instead, Niiya discloses a liquid crystal display element having a cell cap D, that is 6.0 micrometers. See, e.g., paragraph 106.

I. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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